NEWS

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Glasto raves goodbye

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL '93 heralded the "death of the rave," according to organiser Michael Eavis.

Eavis told *NME* that the new "rave-busting" policy of banning all-night sound systems on-site was a complete success.

An estimated 100,000-plus revellers braved temperatures of 80 degrees at the event. Besides a handful of small-scale sound systems set up amid the food stalls, there was little after-hours entertainment.

"(Raves) don't fit into the countryside at all," said Eavis. "The neighbours don't mind the festival, but they don't like the raves. If people want to rave somewhere else that's fine. But it drives the locals mad, it drives the campers mad and it drives us mad."

Attempts to keep New Age travellers away from the event saw a confrontation between two dozen police and a 31 vehicle convoy at Burrowbridge, ten miles from Glastonbury, on Friday. Two men were arrested as the travellers attempted to stage their own weekend music festival near Pilton.

At the festival site, two travellers, 29-year-old twins Stephen and Anthony Perkins from Wolverhampton, were seriously injured on Saturday. The pair, who were climbing over the fence, were stabbed by a gang charging money for entrance. Stephen was "very poorly" while Anthony had almost fully recovered, as *NME* went to press on Monday.

In another incident linked to the festival on Friday, a festival-goer was killed in a hit-and-run incident outside the site. The official attendance of 77,000 is believed to have been pushed over the 100,000 mark by people jumping over the 12ft perimeter fence. One 'entrepreneur' dug a tunnel and was charging punters £10 to clamber through. A gang was also arrested in possession of 60 forged tickets and several thousand pounds in cash.

Police, who were involved in isolated clashes with punters, praised the behaviour and attitude of people who attended the festival. Overall they made 198 arrests, mostly for drug offences, including 59 dealers with £45,000 worth of drugs. The biggest haul was for 49 grammes of crack. Some 636 crimes were reported, of which 550 concerned theft of, or from, tents.

● See full festival report, page 48.